

10 CONCLUSIONS

The CEQ regulations require that supplemental environmental impact statements be issued when “the agency makes substantial changes to the proposed action” or there are “significant new circumstances or information relevant to the environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts.” This SA was written to determine whether either of these two cases apply to the continued operations of LLNL and SNL, Livermore, such that a supplemental sitewide EIS or a new sitewide EIS should be prepared.

The proposed action and alternatives evaluated in the 1992 EIS/EIR (DOE 1992) were related to the operational levels of LLNL and SNL. Impacts were identified and assessed on a sitewide basis, rather than on a project-by-project basis, and mitigation measures were identified for the site as a whole. This SA evaluates whether analysis of changes in actions foreseen in 1992 plus new and modified proposals and projects from now until 2002 presents a seriously different picture of the likely consequences of continued operation of LLNL and SNL than was presented in the 1992 EIS/EIR. This evaluation focuses on determining whether the impacts of continued operation as identified today would be within the bounds of impacts identified in the 1992 EIS/EIR, and if not, whether the additional incremental impacts would be significant.

Chapters 2 through 9 and Appendix A of this SA evaluated a set of new and modified projects and proposals and other changes and concluded that no supplementation is needed for any factor. It was determined that either the projected impacts are within the bounds of the 1992 EIS/EIR, the impacts were anticipated by mitigation measures established in the 1992 EIS/EIR, or the incremental differences in impacts are not significant. The discovery of new resources not anticipated in the 1992 EIS/EIR included fossil bones of mammoth and other prehistoric species at the NIF site, presence of the California red-legged frog in site drainage ditches, and nesting on the site by the white-tailed kite. In addition, PCB-containing capacitors were unearthed at the NIF construction site. These new discoveries resulted in the application of mitigation measures established in the 1992 EIS/EIR and project-specific NEPA documents, consultation with appropriate authorities, additional studies, and implementation of project-specific regulatory abatement and/or cleanup actions. Appendix A evaluates whether analyses of changes in actions foreseen in 1992 plus any new or modified proposals from now until 2002 at SNL, Livermore, present a seriously different picture of the likely consequences of continued operation of SNL, Livermore, than was presented in the 1992 EIS/EIR. This evaluation showed that either the impacts were within the bounds of the 1992 EIS/EIR or that the incremental differences in impacts were temporary and not significant. As a result, the anticipated environmental consequences related to this new information are small, and the overall picture of sitewide LLNL and SNL operations remains very similar to that presented in the 1992 EIS/EIR.

For these reasons, no supplementation of the 1992 EIS/EIR is needed for any impact topic.

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